

many years. We discussed the country's work to join NATO, as well as its progress in efforts to prepare for membership in the European Union. With regard to public opinion, President Kucan indicated that public support for NATO is not a problem. He said people want to discuss the implications of membership in the Alliance and debate the merits of joining NATO. We also discussed Solvenia's progress on military reforms, as well as the country's interest in working to promote security and stability in southeast Europe.

I again discussed these issues and found the same enthusiasm for Slovenia's membership in NATO and the European Union with members of the Slovenian parliament, including the President of Parliament Borut Pahor, President of the Foreign Affairs Committee Jelko Kacin and President of the Defense Committee Doran Marsic. Even the opposition expressed a solid commitment to moving forward with efforts to join the NATO Alliance. During consideration of a resolution on whether or not to have a national referendum on Slovenia's membership in NATO before the Prague summit, there was a very strong consensus that this should not happen until after the November meeting—with 63 agreeing that this should not happen immediately, with 9 opposing.

I also discussed these issues with Prime Minister Janez Drnovšek, who has recently announced his intention to run for President of Slovenia, as well as Minister of Defense Anton Grizold. Additionally, I visited with our ambassador, John Young, and discussed the country's strong candidacy for membership in both NATO and the European Union. I am hopeful that public support for NATO membership will continue to grow, and I am glad that this will be an enlightened decision in Slovenia given the high level of discussion on the issue.

Following meetings in Slovenia on Friday, May 31, 2002, I traveled to Brussels to visit with our Ambassador to NATO, Nick Burns, and the director of Javier Solana's Balkans Task Force, Mr. Stefan Lehne.

During my meeting with Stefan Lehne, I discussed my long interest in southeast Europe and impressions from my recent visits to Macedonia and Kosovo. I spoke with him about my strong concern with political situation in Macedonia, and urged the European Union to remain involved in efforts to bring all parties to the table to discuss disagreements over the order between Macedonia and Kosovo. I also told him I believe it is essential that the international community do everything in its power to encourage the Macedonian government to remain committed to free and fair parliamentary elections scheduled for this September.

We also discussed my interest in the Stability Pact—in particular, the Stability Pact's Quick Start Infrastructure Projects. I believe it is critical that the Pact make its intentions clear on the Quick Start projects.

Finally, we discussed my concern with organized crime, corruption and trafficking in human beings, drugs and weapons that plague many countries in central and eastern Europe. I encouraged Mr. Lehne to make these problems a top priority, as they undermine efforts on behalf of the international community to promote democratic reforms and respect for the rule of law in many of Europe's new democracies.

With Ambassador Nick Burns, I discussed my interest in NATO enlargement and observations from my visits to Bulgaria, Macedonia, Slovakia and Slovenia. While I share the vision of President Bush for a large round of enlargement in Prague, I expressed to Ambassador Burns my strong concern with the need for continued action in candidate countries.

As we approach Prague, we must decide whether each candidate country has gone far enough to take the necessary steps to join the Alliance. And as we answer that question, we will also ask whether or not action is still needed, and whether reforms are best encouraged if that country is extended an invitation at Prague, or if that country is instead asked to continue reforms while looking toward the next round of enlargement. These will be difficult questions, and we must be prepared to answer them.

I look forward to continued discussion with the administration and my colleagues in the Senate on NATO enlargement in the months ahead, and I encourage NATO aspirant countries to take as many steps as they can between now and November to address issues outlined in their respective Membership Action Plans.

Additionally, I will continue to be active and involved in the Senate on issues affecting southeast Europe. We had a very productive Helsinki Commission hearing to examine the situation for ethnic minorities in Kosovo earlier this month, and I will continue to discuss this issue when I participate in the annual meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly next week.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN CELEBRATES 140TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the Children's Aid Society of Southeastern Michigan (CAS) on its 140th anniversary. In that time CAS has been an organization dedicated in service to children, youth, and families. For nearly a century and a half, CAS has been a dynamic and compassionate presence in the Michigan community.

CAS, the oldest child welfare agency in Michigan, is a non-profit, non-sectarian private organization dedicated to the preservation and quality of family life in Southeastern Michigan based in Detroit. Begun in 1862 by members

of the Presbyterian Church to help Civil War orphans, CAS has expanded in the years since to help hundreds of thousands of troubled children and families. CAS aims to build strength within the family unit by providing a variety of comprehensive child and family-focused services, seeking to create the foundation for a better and healthier society.

The services that CAS provides are innovative and humanistic, viewing each individual and problem as unique. For example, the Work Works program gives high-risk youth between the ages of 13 and 17 training in employment skills and helps them in finding a job. Alumni of the program help other staff teach the skills of positive self-esteem, work ethics, and job readiness. Another program, Moving Families in the Right Direction, aims to prevent delinquency and school dropout by strengthening family functioning and relationships. Staff go into homes, schools, and the community to conduct counseling sessions and group work with youth between the ages of 10 and 17 who have been referred to them by the Police Department or Juvenile Court. By giving at-risk children and families early attention, CAS tries to help prevent the family break-up and juvenile delinquency that plagues so much of our country today. CAS also provides day care and has programs for early childhood education, mental health, child abuse, teen families, and parents.

Southeastern Michigan and the larger Detroit metropolitan area are deeply indebted to the work CAS has done for families and children over the last 140 years. Year in and year out CAS has fought to hold families together and ensure the welfare of children. The vital support services that CAS provides help children and parents deal with the difficult personal and societal issues they face in the 21st century. Having performed these important social services for over 140 years is indeed a tremendous accomplishment and deserves hearty commendation.

I know my Senate colleagues will join me in congratulating the Children's Aid Society of Southeastern Michigan for 140 years of success and in wishing it a fruitful future that only adds to its rich legacy of compassion.●

EDS' 40TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President. I extend my congratulations to EDS and to its employees on the company's 40th anniversary. On June 27, 1962, Electronic Data Systems was incorporated in Texas, and EDS is still headquartered in Plano, TX. The company's initial goal was simply to help companies use their computers more effectively. Since then, EDS has been a leader in the information-technology services industry.

EDS has flourished by adapting to its clients' needs and by providing information-technology and business consulting services to every sector of the